

# **GFWC-WI Helen Farnsworth Mears Memorial Art Contest 2024-2026**

## **RULES and GUIDELINES**

**<https://www.gfwc-wi.org/csp-arts-culture>** (Updated November 2024)

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

This art contest is open to all 7th and 8th grade students in Wisconsin public, private, parochial, and home schools. A student may submit only ONE entry in each category: **2D** (painting and drawing) and **3D** (sculpture). Students must make a commitment regarding artwork submitted to the Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest; the submitted artwork should not be entered in another contest. Artists should be aware that if the artwork wins at state judging, the art is delivered to the Oshkosh Public Museum for the summer exhibit.

### **SUBJECT:**

Students may submit an entry about his/her choice of subject.

### **Two CATEGORIES:**

- **2-D Painting/Drawing** – watercolor, oil, pastels, chalk, pencil, pen, ink, acrylic, crayon, charcoal. Artwork must be mounted on tagboard, construction paper, cardboard, or foam board not to exceed 22" X 28".
- **3-D Sculpture** – clay, wire, plaster, papier mâché, wood, metal, cloth. (NO MOLDS OR GREENWARE are to be used). Sculpture should not exceed 22" X 24". GFWC is not responsible for breakage if fragile sculpture is submitted for judging. (Make teachers aware of this disclaimer).

### **ORIGINALITY:**

The work must be entirely the student's own work, done in the classroom under the teacher's supervision. No copies are to be entered in the competition.

### **CLASSIFICATIONS:**

**CLASS A** – Schools with art instructors

**CLASS B** – Schools without art instructors

**CLASS A & B** – Class A & B do not compete against each other.

Each Class confers 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention awards.

### **LABELS:**

Artwork submitted at the local, district, and state level must have the approved **Entry Form** taped to the back of the artwork. When artwork is submitted at the State level, a **Permission & Contact Form** must accompany each piece of artwork. This will enable the Oshkosh Public Museum and the State Chairman to return the artwork directly to the students after winners' artworks have been displayed during the museum's summer exhibit. (**Entry Form & Permission & Contact Form** can be duplicated from **<https://www.gfwc-wi.org/csp-arts-culture>**.)

## **LOCAL CLUB CONTEST:**

Each club may give awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in Class A and Class B in **two** categories: **2D** (painting & drawing) and **3D** (sculpture). Honorable Mention awards are given at the discretion of the contest chairman and judges. Participation certificates may be presented to all students who submit artwork to the contest as a reminder of participating in this historic Memorial Art Contest.

## **DISTRICT CONTEST:**

Local Clubs enter **ONLY** their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, both Class A and B, in the District Contest for judging. All artworks must be listed on the **Inventory Sheet**. Judging takes place during the Spring District meeting. The District judge/s will select winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and may also award Honorable Mentions; the number is determined by the District Chairman and the judge. Winners receive a ribbon, Award Certificate, and prize, as determined by District Policy. Artworks receiving Honorable Mention do not go to State judging but receive a ribbon and certificate award. Whenever possible, **Certificates for Participation** are given to all students whose work is submitted to the contest as a memento of the historic significance of this art contest. The District place-winning artworks proceed to the State Convention for final judging in May.

## **GFWC-WI STATE CONTEST:**

All artworks brought to the State Contest must be accompanied by an **Inventory Sheet** clearly stating the student's name, school, title of artwork, sponsoring club, and name of person responsible to pick up and return the artwork and awards to the students at the close of the State Convention. Cash awards, ribbons, and certificates will be awarded to the winners of each class and category. The place-winning artwork will be on exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Museum where it is displayed during the summer exhibit. The Museum curator will pack the artwork and the State Chairman will post the artwork to the student indicated on the required **Permission & Contact Form**.

## **JUDGING:**

One of the goals of the Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest is to maintain the reputation and increase the status and credibility of the contest. In turn this should encourage further participation of art teachers in schools around the state. To achieve a higher standard of judging at all three levels of the Mears Contest, Local, District, and State, the student artwork must be judged by qualified art judges. Criteria include any of the following credentials: a degree in art or art education, experience as an art educator, experience as a juried artist, experience as a working artist. It is recommended, if circumstances permit, to use two judges.

If there is difficulty in finding qualified judges, the local club's Arts or Helen Farnsworth Mears Contest chairman can contact the State Chairman, who will help to find a judge in the club's area. The state chairman's name and email are found on the website:

**<https://www.gfwc-wi.org/csp-arts-culture>**. It is extremely important to acknowledge and respect the expertise that the judges bring to the Helen Farnsworth Mears contest at all levels of judging. They are giving of their expertise gained through education and practice in their field. It is important to show gratitude for their service and their time spent judging the contest.

## **FORMS:**

The information and forms for the Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest are conveniently located on the website: **<https://www.gfwc-wi.org/csp-arts-culture>**. If a contest chairman does not have access to a computer, another member of the club will be able to duplicate the information, or the state chair will gladly mail whatever materials are needed. Art teachers can access the website to print the **Entry Form, Permission & Contact Form, and Inventory Form**.

## **AWARDS:**

The **Award Certificates** can be filled out on the computer in the four designed spaces “embedded” in the certificate for the name of the student, the name of the club or district, the contest date, and the names of the judges, contest chairman, or club president; this can be done before printing the certificate. There are individual certificates for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Honorable Mention, and Participation.

**Award and Participation Certificates** are posted at:

**<https://www.gfwc-wi.org/csp-arts-culture>**. There is also a short biography that can be printed on the back of the Art Contest Certificates.

GFWC-WI clubs are to be commended for designing their own special award certificates and exhibiting the student artwork on their website and Facebook page.

CONTACT: For any questions or comments, please contact the GFWC-WI Helen Farnsworth Mears chairman whose contact information can be found at:

**<https://www.gfwc-wi.org/csp-arts-culture>**.

Shirley Brabender Mattox, Chairman  
1313 Jackson Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54901  
920-233-2833/920-573-9000  
[shirleybrabendermattox@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybrabendermattox@gmail.com)

Updated November 2024